Appl. No.: 10/729,556 Amdt. Dated: March 14, 2007

Reply to Office Action of: December 14, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-14 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 17-23 have been added. Claims 15-16 have been withdrawn without prejudice as directed to unelected subject matter.

Section 112 Rejections

The claims currently rejected under Section 112 have been cancelled herein, thereby obviating the rejection under section 112.

Restriction

Claims 15 and 16 directed to group III have been withdrawn herein. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement as between groups I and II, and provisionally elect Group I, claim 13 and its dependent claims 17-23 submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully submit that inventions I and II (claims 13 and 14) are related. Claim 13 is drawn to "[a] scalable optical interconnect" including transmitters, a "multiplexing subsystem," "burst-mode receivers," and a distribution subsystem, and "selection subsystems," and not to a multiplexing subsystem as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 14 is drawn to "[a] scalable optical interconnect" including among other things, transmitters, a bit clock, a switch, and burst-mode receivers, and not to a bit clock as suggested by the Examiner.

Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply

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timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Greg V. Bean, Esq. 607-974-2698.

Date **CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION** UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300 on:

Man

Date

Date

Gregory V. Bean

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Respectfully submitted,

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